From: Betsy Brinson
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/15/02 4:10pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To whom it may concern:

I am Josephine Average Consumer and a taxpayer. To date, I still don't understand why my tax dollars are being spent to sue a legitimate business for being successful. I further don't understand why once a settlement is proposed nine states can hold up the process of getting on with life. I have sat back in awe and watched the tobacco growers being subsidized by the government to grow a produce which is then sold to the tobacco companies to produce a legal product that is sold to folks, with a huge tax collected by the government, and then having the government sue the tobacco companies because people choose to use a legal product that is not good for their health. The frosting on the cake is where the government then turns around and takes the money from the tobacco companies and uses it for general fund purposes, not related to health issues stemming from the use of tobacco. I am having a strong sense of deja vue with the Microsoft case. Undoubtedly the fact that some of my retirement is tied up in Microsoft stock biases my view. However, as I see it, the case needs to be settled so that Microsoft can get back to creating more innovations that do nothing but improve my life and as I understand it from the general media the proposed settlement seems to meet everyone's needs.

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